technologies are being popularized. Under this scheme assistance is provided for various inputs and training of farmers/extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems etc.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development, integrated Pest Management etc. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds and pulses are being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology efforts among the farmers.

During 1990, pulses were brought under Technology Mission on oilseeds so as to tackle increasing import of pulses. The objectives set for the Technology Mission were (i) to increase the production of pulses. (ii) to reduce the import of pulses; and (iii) to achieve self sufficiency in pulses. Consequent to the setting up of Technology Mission on Pulses breakthrough in increasing pulses production has been achieved through an Integrated approach by introducing new crop technologies, supply of inputs and extension services support for marketing and post harvest technologies and excellent coordination/cooperation between various organizations/ departments and Ministries.

An outlay of Rs.142.86 crore has been made for the State of Punjab for Agriculture and Allied Activities for the Annual Plan 2005-06. Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has released a number of high yielding varieties of foodgrains crops, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton for increasing production and productivity in Punjab.

Investment in Agriculture Sector

1827. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that investment in agriculture has gone down and is highly inadequate, and land resources for agriculture have come under strain over the years;

(b) how far investment in agriculture and credit facilities for the farmers, have fallen short of requirement during the past five years, and how far land for agriculture has squeezed in these years in the country, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken during 2004-05 and this year to make good these resources; and

(d) the further steps being taken to improve investment and credit facilities for agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) According to statistics of gross capital formation complied by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the total investment in agriculture including allied sectors of foresty, logging and fishing, measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) increased in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) from Rs 15,249 crore in 1993-94 to Rs 24,186 crore in 2003-04. The agriculture land which is a major component of land resources fluctuated around 183 million hectares from 1994-95 onwards.

(b) The position of total investment in terms of GCF in agriculture and credit facilities extended to farmers in the last three years is given below:

Trends in Investment (Gross Capital Formation) and credit Facilities

Year	GCF at 1993-94 prices (Rs. in crore)	Credit Disbursement (Crore)(Apr.Mar.)
2001-02	20360	62045
2002-03	21500	69560
2003-04	24186	86981.00
2004-05	N.A	115242.81
2005-06	N.A	81679.58 (up to September, 2005)

Sources: CSO& NABARD.

The target of agricultural credit flow for the year 2004-05 was fixed at Rs. 1,05,000.00 crore against which the achievement made Rs. 1,15,242.81 crore. For the year 2005-06, the target is fixed at Rs. 1,42,000.00 crore and the achievement made so far upto 30-9-2005 is Rs. 81679.58 crore (57.52%).

As regards, the agricultural land in the country, it has remained more or less at the same level. The latest State-wise information available for last three years is given in the enclosed Statement (see below)

(c) The Government has taken number of initiatives which include multi-pronged strategy to address several issues in the agricultural sector. A series of policy initiatives has been taken in several vital areas like credit, irrigation facilities, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture, etc. to enhance production and productivity. The Government has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turing the focus of commercial banks regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas for higher investment include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation National Horticulture Mission has been taken up with focus on backward and forward linkages, and development/ strengthening of agriculture marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

(d) To improve investment in agriculture, steps have been taken to raise public investment in irrigation projects by increasing the outlay on the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) from Rs. 2800.00 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4800.00 crore in 2005-06. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 400.00 crore has been provided in the Union Budged 2005-06 for promoting micro irrigation.

A Comprehensive Credit Policy was announced by the Government on 18-6-2004 in order to double agriculture credit in next three years and to provide debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities. Several policy initiatives like broadening the scope of Kissan Credit Cards and revision in the norms of fixing scale of finance have been taken to meet realistic need of the farmers. A package providing for restructuring debts of farmers in distress and in arrears have been put in to operation that provide rescheduling of outstanding loans of period of five years including moratorium of two years.

Statement

State-wise Agricultural Land/Cultivable land for the years from 1998-99 *to* 2002-03 *(Provisional)*

(000 Hectares)

State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Andhra Pradesh	15854	15847	15841	15816	15778
Assam	3243	3224	324	3225	3225
Bihar	10837	10836	6651	6642	6641
Chhattisgarh	@	@	5608	5612	5600
Gujarat	12354	12353	12354	12357	12357
Haryana	3816	3799	3783	3776	3735
Himachal Pradesh	812	806	804	801	806
Jammu and Kashmir	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050
Jharkhand	@	@	4184	4184	4184
Karnataka	12905	12912	12916	12910	12908
Kerala	2441	2420	2393	2382	2381
Madhya Pradesh	22856	22888	17278	17336	17373
Maharashtra	21112	12109	21125	21196	21196
Orissa	7975	7975	7473	7473	7473
Punjab	4331	4341	4312	4312	4312
Rajasthan	25682	25658	25646	25649	25633
Tamil Nadu	8289	8281	8273	8265	8251
Uttaranchal	@	@	1416	1416	1416
Uttar Pradesh	20798	20821	19389	19334	19315
West Bengal	5821	5833	5899	5933	5854
Other States/UTs	3457	3460	3453	3326	3356
All India	183631	183613	183072	182997	182845

Note: *Other States/UTs include Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, A & Islands, Chandigarh, D&N Haveli, Delhi, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

@Since the State of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal were constituted in 2000-01, the agriculture land/cultivable land of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal was included in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively during the period of 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Genetic qualities of golden rice

1828. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has signed a work plan with International Rice Research Institute, Phillipines to enhance genetic qualities of 'golden rice':

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the genetically modified golden rice would curb blindness among children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research and International Rice Research Institute, Philippines have signed a workplan for the period 2005-08 which includes a project on 'golden rice' entitled "The Development of Adapted Germplasm for India with High Levels and Provitamin Carotenoids" with an objective to transfer the Provitamin-A trait/events from 'golden rice' lines to popular Indian rice varieties.

(c) and (d) 'Golden Rice' is a variety of rice engineered to produce beta carotene (pro-vitamin A) to help to combat vitamin A deficiency which is one of the causes of blindness.

Compensation to farmers under NAIS

†1829. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme for the year 2004-05 and the current Year to compensate losses of farmers due to natural calamity, drought or heavy rainfall;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.